

**Beth Saine**

Lincoln County Commissioner

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Ms. Hesse:

As a member of the Lincoln County Commission, I am pleased that the United States Justice Department is settling with Microsoft. Technology is so important to the future of counties like ours all across America, and this settlement will enhance all facets of the tech industry in the coming years.

Our neighbors in Mecklenburg County have had many advantages over Lincoln County, and other counties in the past. Charlotte is the nation's mega banking center. That attracts business, and with it comes a substantial local tax base. I'm not saying that money is everything, but huge counties have had a traditional advantage over smaller ones in the past. As a result, they have had an easier time funding essential county services, such as school improvements.

Technology quite simply levels the playing field for average-sized counties across America. When someone logs on to the Internet, it doesn't matter if they're sitting in Raleigh or Hanging Dog, their access to information is the same, and their ability to profit from the proliferation of information is the same.

The tech industry needs a shot in the arm so that it can continue aiding America's counties in a significant way. For this reason, I'd like to request that Judge Kollar Kotelly approves the settlement that Microsoft and the federal government have reached. It will benefit Lincoln County, and counties like ours across America.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Saine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Beth Saine